

LESSON

Choices

Sabbath

Do Do this week's activity on page 81.

Think of a time you have done something wrong and tried to find ways to hide the wrong. How did it work out? How would it have been better? (See 2 Samuel 11; 12:1-24; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20; Psalm 51; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 717-726.)

"Who is that beautiful woman?" David asked his servant.

"Isn't she Bathsheba, wife of Uriah the Hittite?" his servant replied.

David had been walking on the roof of his palace in the coolness of the evening and the beauty of Bathsheba caught his eye.

"Bring her to my palace," David commanded his servant.

David was the most powerful man in all of Israel. He was the king of both

Sunday

Read Read "Choices."

Write Write out your power text in large letters filling a sheet of paper.

Learn Repeat it several times to yourself. Then erase or cover up one word and say the verse again. Next cover another word and repeat the verse. Continue erasing words and saying the verse. You will be surprised how quickly you learn using this method.

Pray Ask God to lead you in the way that seems right to Him.

TWELVE

POWER POINT

Israel and Judah. In addition to this, David was strong, handsome, and very musical. But King David was married. And so was Bathsheba—each to another person. If David had taken time to talk with God, he would have been reminded that coveting someone else's wife would cause a lot of hurt to himself, Bathsheba, and many other innocent people.

We worship God when we follow His will about respectful relationships with the opposite sex.

POWER TEXT

"You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body"

(1 Corinthians 6:19, 20, NIV).

Monday

Read Read 2 Samuel 11:1-5.

Write Temptation surrounds us in many ways. In your journal write down three ways that you could be tempted to do the wrong thing. Also, add how you can avoid being in these tempting situations.

Pray Pray that you will be watchful of where small temptations are creeping into your life and that you will rely on God to help you resist them.

Bathsheba was brought to see David. She spent time with him and then went home.

After a while, Bathsheba sent David a message. "I'm pregnant." David read the message many times, hoping that it was a mistake; hoping that he had read it wrong. There was no escaping it. Bathsheba was pregnant and there was no possibility that Uriah was the father, because he was on the battlefield, fighting in David's army.

What should I do about this? David thought to himself. Once again, he should have turned to God, asked forgiveness for his sin, and asked for guidance of his actions from here on. But no, he tried to fix it himself.

David sent word for Uriah to return from the battlefield. Uriah went to the palace to see David. "Go home and relax," David encouraged Uriah. He hoped that Uriah would go home to his wife. But Uriah did not go to his home, he slept at the gate of the palace with Joab's servants instead.

When David asked him why he hadn't gone home, Uriah answered, "My commanding officers and all of the soldiers are camped out in tents in a field. Even God's ark is in a tent. It wouldn't be right for me to enjoy the luxuries of home and the company of my wife when our people are at war."

Tuesday

Read Read 2 Samuel 11:6-13.

Think Think about why David wanted Uriah to go home? Why didn't Uriah do as David had instructed? Who was the more responsible person here?

Write In your Bible study journal, write about how two wrongs never make a right.

Pray Ask God to keep you pure in your relationships with the opposite sex.



Wednesday

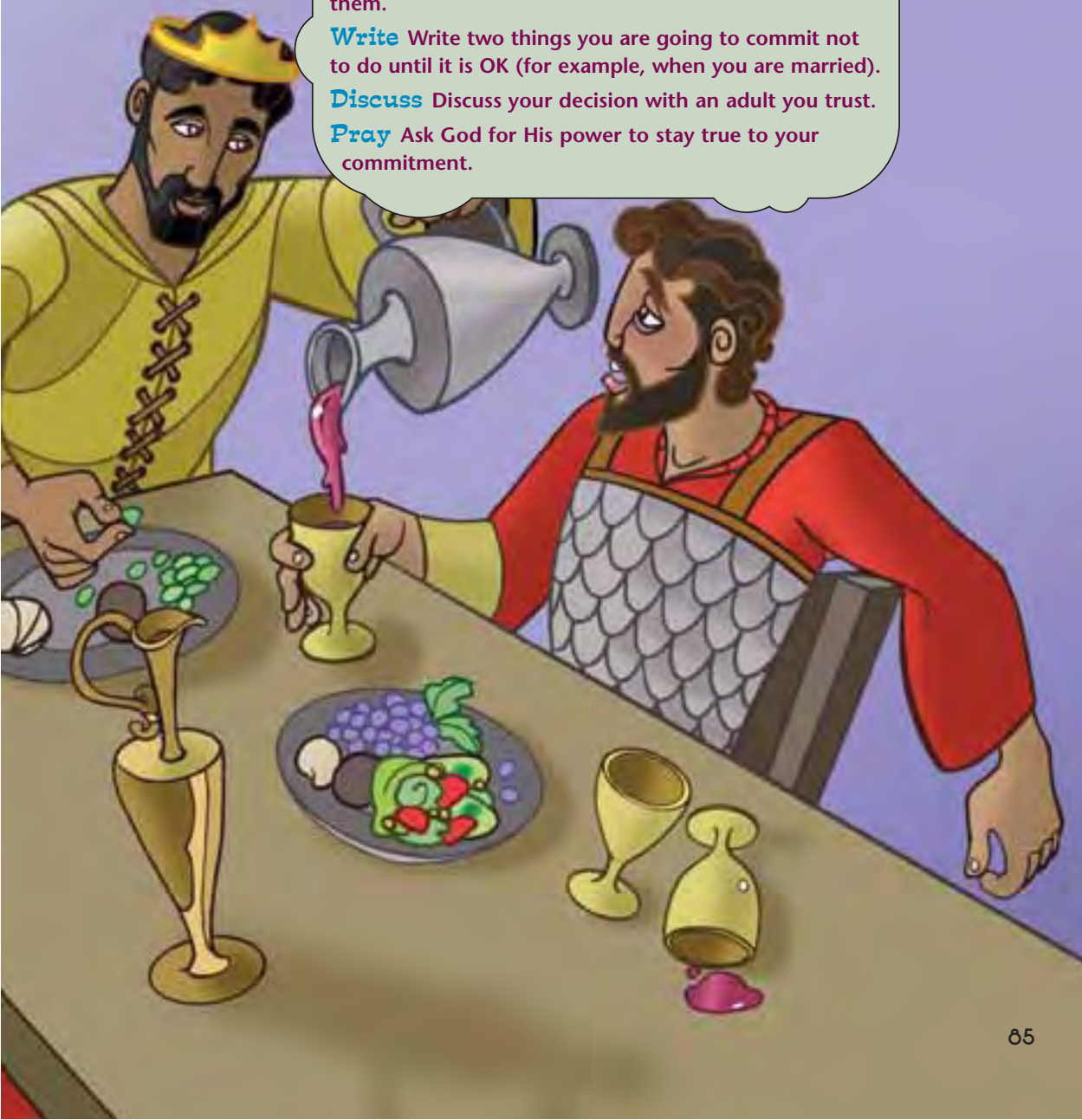
Read Read 2 Samuel 11:14-27.

Think It is perfectly natural to be attracted to someone of the opposite sex. Make a list of four wholesome ways you can show this person you care for them.

Write Write two things you are going to commit not to do until it is OK (for example, when you are married).

Discuss Discuss your decision with an adult you trust.

Pray Ask God for His power to stay true to your commitment.



David's heart sank. Getting out of his mess might be harder than he thought. Uriah was faithful and dedicated to both God and his fellow soldiers. That made David look bad.

David tried even harder the next night. But David's plan still didn't work. He would have to come up with something else.

David decided that the only other solution to his problem would be to have Uriah killed in battle. He wrote a letter to Joab outlining exactly how to make it happen.

Joab did as he was commanded, and Uriah was killed in battle along with some of the other soldiers. Bathsheba wept for her husband and mourned for him when she heard he had died. After the appropriate time of mourning, David brought Bathsheba to the palace to be his wife.

David thought he had gotten himself out of the mess he had made. But God loved him too much to let him continue down this path away from Himself. God sent the prophet Nathan to confront David with his sin. Nathan told David a parable that

Thursday

Read Read 2 Samuel 12:1-10.

Draw Draw the faces of David, Nathan, the rich man, the poor man, and the one sheep, showing from their expressions the way they felt.

Pray Thank God for stories that show the ugliness of sin and the power and forgiveness of God.

Friday

Read Read 2 Samuel 12:11-31.

Think Remember that David was a man after God's own heart in spite of his sins. Once he truly repented and asked God to clean him up, God gladly complied. If you have already made poor choices in your relationships with the opposite sex, know that God will forgive you, clean you up, and guide you into better choices in the future.

Find Try to find a fresh flower to put in your room.

Praise Praise the Lord for His forgiveness, His grace, and His power. Claim them all as your own.

pointed out the grave sin David had committed.

David got the point. He hung his head in shame. "I have sinned against the Lord," he said.

"The Lord has forgiven you," Nathan told David, "but your son will die."

Even though David was forgiven, there was still no way to undo all the pain and loss that had taken place and would still take place in the future.

Soon after Nathan's visit, David and Bathsheba's son became very ill. David begged God to spare his life, but the child died. David understood, however; he stopped fasting and pleading with God. Some time later God blessed David and Bathsheba with another son—the very special Solomon.

